

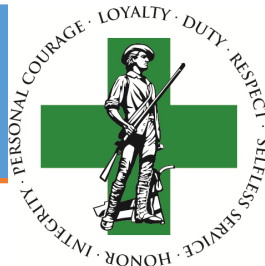


SAFETY SENSE

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SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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Ride smart, ride safe: Motorcycle 101

March brings with it many people's favorite time of the year: Spring. Days are growing longer and warmer. Outdoor activities may not require heavy winter wear, and many of us will uncover the motorcycle, and prepare for another great season of riding.

If you have chosen to be one of the many that enjoys motorcycling, great. It is an economical method of transportation, it provides a sense of freedom and often times, it allows for a group get together to ride.

Two undisputable facts you need to know: 1) Safety must always be the first concern, 2) Motorcycles are unforgiving of negligence, foolishness and complacency.

On a bike you are nearly 30 times more likely to be involved in a crash. Even with the appropriate PPE, injuries can be unavoidable. Your protective equipment is generally the difference between hurt, incapacitated or dead. If your NOT wearing it, you are wrong.

Alcohol consumption while operating a motorcycle is reckless. You may not feel it, but after just one or two

drinks, your reaction time is slower. Even if for just a second, that moment may allow you to travel into a collision that can claim your life or someone else's.

After the two drinks, inhibitions are lowered. Something you would never do sober, seems plausible. Coupled with slowed reactions, it's a recipe for tragedy.

Whatever you do for recreation, you are encouraged to use common sense and good judgement.



AGATT
ALL GEAR, ALL THE TIME

Do you remember the Creed?

The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer: as an NCO you recited this in your induction ceremony. Officers have heard it, if they didn't recite it when they were young Soldiers. And our junior enlisted most likely are waiting patiently to have the opportunity to do the same. But are we living up to it? Or are we ignoring it when we turn our heads to unsafe acts or conditions?

"My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind: accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers". If you ignore a hazard, don't fix it, or bring it to someone's attention then you are jeopardizing the unit readiness. You may not be able to accomplish your mission. And the welfare of your Soldiers is at risk. This pertains to physical hazards and unsafe conditions or actions. '

Keep your Soldiers uppermost in your mind by looking out for those conditions that can injure them.

Motorcycle Safety Training



As Soldiers we know the value of training. We are all aware of the saying "Train as you fight". It means something. You know that when the moment comes where thinking is not an option, reaction has to be right now, your training will kick in and instinctively you will know what to do. No where is this more evident and necessary than riding a motorcycle.

When riding a bike, you must work off of experience, knowledge and training. In the event of a sudden change, your reaction has to be instantaneous. If you haven't thought about it, considered your options and planned for it, your reaction will be to freeze, panic and more than likely, fail. On two wheels, to fail is deadly.

You are not required to ride a motorcycle; it is a choice. So if you have made that decision, give yourself the best opportunity for success. Train, think, prepare

and train some more.

If you want to learn to ride, enroll in the Basic Motorcycle Safety Course. This course will take you from, zero to competent basic rider in 15 hours, if you pass. The course is designed for the brand new rider. Also, the course provides the use off a motorcycle to learn on.

If you have ridden for some time, you should enroll in the Experienced Rider Course (also known as the Basic Rider Course II) or the Advanced Rider Course.

These classes take the basic rider and build on to the basic skills. It teaches evasive maneuvers; stopping techniques, swerving, swerve and stop and riding over or through obstructions.

The classes are taught through the South Dakota Safety Council. Classes are scheduled from March through October, throughout the state. You can check the sched-

ule out at <http://www.southdakotasafetycouncil.org/motorcycle/index.cfm>.

For either of the courses, you are required to have the appropriate PPE. That PPE is: DOT/ Schnell approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt/jacket, long sturdy pants (Jeans or stronger), over the ankle, closed toe boots and gloves (leather or leather palmed or similar). A reflective vest is also recommended.

Any Soldier may sign up and upon conclusion the State Safety Office will have registration costs refunded to the Soldier.

West River Soldiers also have the option of attending courses offered at Ellsworth AFB. These classes are not as frequent, but are no costs for military members.



There is always time to do things right

Who doesn't have time to do things the right way. All too often during an accident investigation, the statement "I was in a hurry", "we were rushed" or "there was no time" is heard. Those words make absolutely no sense in an accident. If there was no time to do it right, how was there time to

stop the program, treat an injury, repair equipment and find additional resources to make up for the loss, damaged or injured?

Using the excuse "there wasn't time" is only saying "I didn't want to take the time to do the job correctly".

Many times we

have performed tasks where an accident was avoided or narrowly missed. That is a close call. You can try to operate like that, but eventually something will go wrong. If you are on the working end, it is your responsibility to stop the unsafe act before things go bad. Take the time to do it right, the first time.

Motorcycle safety is a

TEAM EFFORT



Protective gear has two basic purposes:

1 COMFORT. Uncomfortable gear can distract you from riding. Properly fitted protective gear will help you stay comfortable when encountering various riding conditions.

Personal Protective Equipment



2 PROTECTION. In the event of a crash, protective gear can help prevent or reduce injuries. What you see here is the important gear needed for comfort and protection.

SAVES LIVES



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

